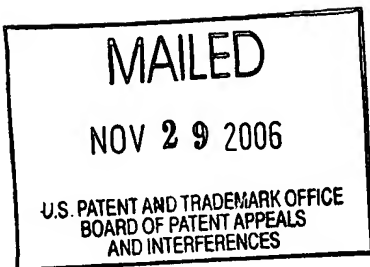


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte ALAN L. FERGUSON, STEVEN W. O'NEAL
and DANIEL C. WOOD

Application No. 10/016,785

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was received electronically at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on October 3, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below:

The Examiner's Answer mailed on March 13, 2006, stated under the Evidence Relied Upon section, page 2 that "No evidence is relied upon by the examiner in the rejection of the claims under appeal." A review of the file reveals that prior art was applied to the Rejections on appeal. See the Grounds of rejection on page 3 of the

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Examiner's Answer. The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, (MPEP), in §1207.02 states:

(8) *Evidence Relied Upon*. A listing of the evidence relied on (e.g., patents, publications, admitted prior art), and, in the case of nonpatent references, the relevant page or pages.

Before further review, the examiner must submit a corrected examiner's answer that will include the references under the "Evidence Relied Upon" heading.

Accordingly it is

ORDERED that the application is electronically returned to the Examiner to vacate the Examiner's Answer and issue a revised Examiner's Answer having the missing reference(s) listed under "Evidence Relied Upon" section, and for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

By: G. P. Edgell for Dale Shaw
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GJH

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